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Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. Following the launch of the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122/Add.1 and Corr.1), the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/143 of 19 December 2006 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit an annual report on the implementation of the resolution, and requested that the report include, at its sixty-second session, information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement the resolution; and at the sixty-third session of the Assembly, information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the resolution.

2. In paragraph 12 of the resolution, the General Assembly urged the entities of the United Nations system, inter alia, to support the strengthening of national capacities and efforts on the collection, processing and dissemination of data for their possible use in the national plans of action against all forms of violence against women. In paragraph 13 (a), the Assembly urged those entities to enhance the coordination of and intensify their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in a more systematic, comprehensive and sustained way. Paragraph 14 of the resolution called upon the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide funding mechanism. The Assembly stressed, in paragraph 16, that within the United Nations system adequate resources should be assigned to those bodies responsible for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights. Paragraph 19 of the resolution requests the Secretary-General to establish a coordinated database, containing data provided by States, disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant information, on the extent, nature and consequences of all forms of violence against women, and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes for, including best practices in, combating such violence.

3. The present report summarizes the efforts of entities of the United Nations system to (a) achieve greater coordination and collaboration in their work on violence against women; (b) disseminate the in-depth study of the Secretary-General and resolution 61/143; and (c) undertake initiatives in respect of violence against women in support of national efforts. The report is based on information provided by 33 entities of the United Nations system and by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for an inventory of current and future activities of the United Nations system on violence against women (see annex for list of contributors). The inventory, compiled by the Division for the Advancement of Women, is available on its website.

4. Follow-up to the study and the resolution has proceeded at the level of individual entities, where the momentum generated by the preparatory process is being used to initiate new activities or strengthen ongoing work. The inventory, which will be regularly updated, now serves as a baseline for assessing progress in implementation. Entity-specific activities are complemented by collaborative efforts, coordinated in particular by the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. Given the short period of time since the adoption of the resolution, some of the new and intensified efforts of collaboration and coordination are still at a preliminary stage but will increase in future programming cycles.

II. United Nations efforts aimed at achieving greater coordination and collaboration

5. The Secretary-General decided to spearhead a multi-year system-wide campaign to eliminate violence against women and girls through 2015, coinciding with the target date for the Millennium Development Goals, in which all United Nations system entities should participate from their respective areas of comparative advantage. The campaign would be developed by the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, in collaboration with United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, and guided by the Deputy Secretary-General. The launch of the campaign, which is expected at the end of 2007, will include practical high-impact activities for 2008 to respond to the urgency of the issue. The campaign will focus on three key areas: global advocacy; United Nations leadership by example; and strengthened efforts and partnerships at the national and regional levels to effectively support the efforts of Governments, civil society and other actors in implementing comprehensive approaches to preventing and addressing all forms of violence against women and girls.

6. To give further impetus to the work of the United Nations system on violence against women and girls, and in particular stronger follow-up to the in-depth study and resolution 61/143, the Secretary-General will promote the strengthening of capacity within the United Nations Secretariat and the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, and intensify efforts to mobilize resources for that work. The topic will be considered by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in 2008 and periodically reviewed thereafter by its two committees, the High-Level Committee on Programmes and the High-Level Committee on Management.

7. In response to paragraph 13 of the resolution, the United Nations system has recently established or enhanced several system-wide initiatives on violence against women, as indicated below.

A. Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and its Task Force on Violence against Women

8. The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, headed by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, brings together the gender equality specialists of entities of the United Nations system. During the preparatory process for the Secretary-General's study, the Inter-Agency Network established a Task Force on Violence against Women, consisting of 15 members,[1] which started its work in early 2007, in follow-up to resolution 61/143.

9. The Division for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) serve as co-convenors of the Task Force. The Task Force

[1] The Division for the Advancement of Women, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNDP, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OHCHR, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the regional commissions (represented by the New York Office), UN-Habitat, ILO, the World Bank, United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict and IOM. WHO participates in areas of its particular expertise.

aims to achieve the following: (a) enhanced and systematic support by the United Nations system to Member States at the national level in their efforts to eliminate violence against women; (b) systematic and timely exchange of information among entities of the United Nations system about existing and planned strategies, programmes and activities on violence against women; (c) enhanced understanding of resources available from the United Nations system at the national level to support work by Governments and non-governmental organizations to prevent and respond to violence against women; and (d) demonstrated leadership by senior officials of entities of the United Nations system to address violence against women.

10. The Task Force is undertaking, during the period 2007-2008, a series of activities to achieve the above-mentioned aims. The activities include the following: (a) initiating joint programming on violence against women in up to 10 pilot countries and the elaboration of a manual or guidelines on joint programming; (b) enhancing information exchange through the establishment of an e-mail list for United Nations entities and regular updating of the inventory of United Nations system activities on violence against women; and (c) enhancing the availability of resources by undertaking a resource flow analysis, through fund-raising efforts for programming on violence against women and by strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women.

11. The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality will review the terms of reference of the Task Force and assess progress made in late 2008, in order to develop a future work programme.

12. Through the sponsorship of UNFPA, a full-time coordinator to support the work of the Task Force is expected to assume duties in the fall of 2007. The Division is contributing to the work of the Task Force from within existing resources.

B. United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict

13. Launched at the beginning of 2007, United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict is a system-wide initiative involving 12 United Nations entities.[2] It seeks to intensify and better coordinate the response of the United Nations system to sexual violence in conflict. United Nations Action is undertaking advocacy efforts to raise public awareness about the extent and complexity of sexual violence in armed conflict and to strengthen political will for a more effective response; providing technical and strategic support to United Nations country teams to intensify joint programming to prevent and better respond to sexual violence during and post-conflict; and generating and disseminating knowledge about the scale of the problem and effective responses to sexual violence in conflict. Those efforts are being undertaken in close collaboration with Governments and non-governmental organizations as part of a broader "Stop Rape Now" campaign. In April 2007, the Executive Committee on Peace and Security endorsed the

[2] The Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WFP and WHO.

coordinated approach proposed by United Nations Action and committed to supporting its work.

14. United Nations Action works through existing United Nations coordination mechanisms including the gender sub-working group and the gender-based violence working group of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance. It seeks to strengthen responses to sexual violence in conflict by utilizing existing mechanisms and tools, such as consolidated appeal processes, poverty reduction strategies and common country assessments on United Nations development assistance frameworks. It also works to enhance the United Nations system's response to Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1612 (2005).

C. Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons and the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

15. The Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons was established in response to resolution 2006/27 of the Economic and Social Council, which requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to coordinate the work of agencies and bodies of the United Nations as well as other relevant intergovernmental organizations in providing technical assistance to countries on human trafficking. The Group aims to improve cooperation and coordination between United Nations entities and other international organizations to facilitate a holistic approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons, including the protection of, and support for, victims of trafficking.[3] The Group seeks to provide a platform for exchange of information on anti-trafficking activities; to review and support the activities of United Nations entities and other international organizations to ensure the implementation of all international instruments and standards of relevance for preventing and combating trafficking in persons; and to promote effective and efficient use of existing resources.

16. The Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (the Global Initiative),[4] facilitated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, is dedicated to ending human trafficking and slavery and involves entities of the United Nations system, including those that are members of the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons, as well as regional organizations, civil society groups and the private sector.[5] The Global Initiative aims to increase public awareness of trafficking; strengthen prevention; reduce demand; rescue and protect victims; improve the effectiveness of law enforcement; ensure the implementation of international commitments; strengthen partnerships; improve data collection, research and analysis; and increase resources committed to this work.

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[3] Chaired by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the following United Nations entities participate in the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons: the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, OHCHR, the Division for the Advancement of Women, INSTRAW, UNIFEM, UNFPA and the World Bank. Other participants include Interpol and IOM.

[4] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 10* (E/2007/30), sect. I.D, decision 16/1.

[5] Members of the Global Initiative's Steering Committee include the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNICEF, OHCHR, ILO, IOM and OSCE.

D. United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

17. Established by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/166, the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women supports national, regional and international actions taken by non-governmental organizations and Governments to eliminate violence against women. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) serves as the manager of the Trust Fund. Since its establishment in 1996, the Trust Fund has awarded grants totalling approximately $14 million to 237 programmes in 109 countries. Of the total number of grants, nine were made to governmental organizations. Over the past two years its resources have increased to almost $5 million annually, but the demand for Trust Fund support continues to greatly exceed available funds. In 2006, requests for funding exceeded $190 million. Since 2005, United Nations system involvement has expanded, and 17 United Nations entities participated in Trust Fund decision-making concerning grants in 2006.[6]

E. Global Coalition on Women and AIDS

18. The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS is an alliance of United Nations agencies[7] and civil society groups, supported by a secretariat located within UNAIDS. It aims to spur action to address the increasing HIV infection rates among women and girls, including by paying particular attention to the intersections between violence against women and HIV/AIDS. The Global Coalition calls for, among other things, the enactment and enforcement of laws that prevent violence against women; support for survivors of violence; and the creation of national AIDS plans that integrate strategies to reduce violence against women and link violence prevention efforts with mainstream HIV prevention and treatment services. In 2006, the Global Coalition and UNIFEM as the manager of the Trust Fund, in collaboration with donors, created a special window in that Fund to support programmes that address the intersection of HIV/AIDS and violence against women.

F. Coordination at the regional level

19. The regional commissions, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (the Division for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Statistics Division), will execute a project on enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge communities, supported by the United Nations Development Account, pending approval by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session. The project will include the following activities: (a) undertaking an electronic survey with all stakeholders and experts; (b) holding an international expert meeting to assess existing knowledge, information and learning initiatives in selected countries of the five regional commissions; (c) building and updating an interregional web portal;

[6] The Division for the Advancement of Women, ECLAC, ESCAP, FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNICEF, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Office for Project Services, WPF and WHO.

[7] Including UNAIDS, UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO.

(d) holding seminars and workshops for users and producers of information in each region; (e) developing a methodology to integrate best practices at the operational level in the five regions; (f) preparing regional and national publications; (g) creating a kit for the collection and use of information on violence against women; and (h) publishing comparative data collected by the five regional commissions.

20. In September 2005, 11 entities of the United Nations system based in Latin America and the Caribbean established an inter-agency working group on violence against women, coordinated by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to work collectively to strengthen, coordinate and integrate current programmes, studies, technical cooperation, training, and information and monitoring activities carried out by these entities. The regional inter-agency working group will establish, with financial support from UNFPA, an observatory on violence against women to monitor the following: (a) implementation of international agreements; (b) implementation of policies, plans and programmes; (c) promotion of legal and judicial reforms; (d) establishment of alliances and collaborative networks; (e) production of statistics; and (f) information dissemination.

III. Dissemination of the Secretary-General's in-depth study on violence against women and the General Assembly resolution

21. The Secretary-General's in-depth study was the first global study on violence against women prepared at the request of the General Assembly. It synthesizes existing research, knowledge and experience at the national, regional and global levels, highlights the persistence of various forms of violence against women in all parts of the world, lays out the responsibilities of States to address and prevent such violence and gives examples of a range of promising practices in preventing and responding to violence against women.

22. Specific steps have been taken by a number of entities of the United Nations to give visibility to the study and the resolution, thus encouraging greater attention to the issue of violence against women in programme and project activities of different stakeholders. The Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women has regularly highlighted the urgency for follow-up to the study and the resolution in various forums and meetings and during missions. The Division for the Advancement of Women has issued the study in book form (in English, French and Spanish) and has disseminated it widely, including through its website, at meetings of intergovernmental bodies and to machineries for the advancement of women at the national level, United Nations resident coordinators and representatives, as well as to other stakeholders that contributed to the preparatory process, such as non-governmental organizations, human rights treaty bodies and regional organizations. The Department of Public Information produced media kits in support of the launch of the study and worked with United Nations Information Centres to promote follow-up.

23. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean continues to provide access to the study through its website and is coordinating a regional inter-agency campaign to disseminate it widely along with regional reports on violence against women. It will distribute both documents at the tenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in Quito, Ecuador, in August 2007.

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific also disseminated the study at various regional events.

24. Several entities organized panels, meetings and discussions to call attention to the study and its recommendations and the resolution. The Division organized a panel discussion on the occasion of the launch of the study in October 2006, and on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in November 2006. It organized an interactive panel on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women: follow-up to the Secretary-General's in-depth study at the international and national levels as part of the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in March 2007. An inter-agency effort spearheaded by the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women on the theme of "Ending impunity for violence against women and girls", on International Women's Day in March 2007, also called for follow-up to the study and the resolution. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime organized a panel in connection with the sixteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in May 2007.

25. Work to integrate follow-up to the study and the resolution into regular work programmes has also been initiated. In April 2007, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific organized an expert group meeting on regional strategies for implementing the recommendations from the Secretary-General's study on violence against women with particular emphasis on harmful traditional and cultural practices and the role of national machineries. The Commission included the findings and recommendations of the study in a report considered by the ESCAP Committee on Emerging Social Issues at its third session. At the same session, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP made presentations on key aspects of the study.

26. Experts of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women frequently draw attention to the study, its findings and recommendations, and to the resolution of the General Assembly in their constructive dialogue with States parties. The Committee also includes references to the study in its concluding comments.

IV. Initiatives on violence against women by entities of the United Nations system in support of national efforts

27. Entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and from their different perspectives, increasingly work on preventing and responding to violence against women. Several have long-standing programmes of support to Governments at the national level. Participants in a workshop for entities of the United Nations system, convened by the Division for the Advancement of Women as part of the preparatory process of the study in December 2005, agreed to take a series of steps so as to achieve a more comprehensive and well coordinated system-wide response to violence against women in regard to the following: enhancing implementation of the legal and policy frameworks that guide United Nations system efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women; data collection and research; awareness-raising, communication and dissemination of good practices; and resource mobilization. The workshop also agreed on steps to strengthen a

coordinated response at the national level and on the role of new and existing coordination mechanisms at the international level.

28. The resolution has provided the impetus for intensifying the preceding efforts, and for achieving greater coordination and effectiveness of such initiatives at different levels. United Nations entities continue to develop and scale up their entity-specific responses to the resolution in different areas.

A. Data and information collection, research and evaluation

29. Data on violence against women are essential to inform sound policy, and many entities undertake or support the collection of such data. The United Nations publication, *The World's Women 2005: Progress in Statistics*,[8] gave an overview of available statistics on violence against women, while the Secretary-General's study provided further details on the prevalence of different forms of violence against women. In accordance with paragraph 19 of resolution 61/143, the Division for the Advancement of Women has initiated work on the establishment of a coordinated database containing data on the extent, nature and consequences of all forms of violence against women, and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes for, including best practices in, combating such violence. The database is expected to strengthen the capacity of all stakeholders to prevent and address violence against women.

30. Regional commissions have spearheaded data collection efforts at the regional level. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) supported 12 countries in conducting field studies using the "African gender and development index",[9] through which the countries collected qualitative and quantitative data on domestic violence, harmful practices against women, rape, sexual harassment and trafficking in women. An additional 25 countries will be added to the index. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) continued to focus on improving the measurement of violence against women through population-based surveys and is finalizing its web page dedicated to the measurement of violence against women in Europe. A special issue of the ECLAC statistical journal, on violence against women, was produced. ECLAC continued to collect statistics and other information, including on national legislation.

31. Specialized data and information are necessary to enhance legislative, policy and programme work to prevent and address all forms of violence against women. Entities of the United Nations system undertake such data collection and build the capacity of governmental and other actors in this field. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is a partner in the International Violence against Women Survey which has been carried out in 11 countries, and the information gathered has enhanced the capacity of the countries concerned to respond more effectively to the phenomenon. In 10 other countries, implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence[10] significantly strengthened the knowledge base and availability of reliable data on the root causes, magnitude and consequences of violence against women.

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[8] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XVII.7.

[9] Addis Ababa, Economic Commission for Africa, 2004.

[10] Claudia Garcia-Moreno, and others, *WHO Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women* (Geneva, World Health Organization, 2005).

Completion of the United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys resulted in the availability of data on child marriage for over 50 countries, on female genital mutilation/cutting for 10 countries and on attitudes towards domestic violence for over 30 countries. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) plans to strengthen the evidence base pertaining to the intersection of violence against women and HIV prevention.

32. Surveys on economic, physical, emotional and sexual violence against women in Cameroon, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania, undertaken by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), provided data that can be used by urban planners and policymakers in efforts to make cities safer for women. The collection and analysis of data on trafficking patterns and modalities, routes and flows, and counter-trafficking measures is part of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) anti-trafficking projects, while IOM maintains the largest international database on trafficking. Such data inform the development of prevention strategies and responses to trafficking. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is working in partnership with other organizations to develop an information management system for data on sexual violence against women. The system will be used in field operations.

33. Data collection methodologies must be ethical, sound and give priority to the safety of women. Guidelines for data collection and research on violence against women prepared by some entities, such as WHO and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), are tools for strengthening adherence to those principles.

34. Improvements in data and information collection methodologies and evaluation, as well as in the development and use of indicators, remain necessary, and United Nations entities contribute to progress in that regard. Meetings of experts have put forward recommendations for effective data collection and harmonization of methodologies. For example, as far back as 2001, ECLAC convened an international meeting on gender statistics and indicators for measuring the incidence of and trends in violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean. That meeting was followed by an inter-agency coordination meeting on gender statistics in 2002 to harmonize the methodology for technical assistance on gender indicators with special attention to violence against women. The Economic Commission for Europe organized regional and subregional meetings and workshops in which experts from national statistics offices, users of statistics and international organizations discussed the value of surveys on violence against women and how to improve them. The Division for the Advancement of Women organized an expert group meeting on data collection and methodologies in respect of violence against women that identified ways for overcoming existing gaps and challenges. The United Nations Statistical Division plans to convene a global forum on gender statistics in November 2007 that will aim to improve development of gender statistics and coordination of gender statistics programmes and activities at the national, regional and global levels. Violence against women will be one of the key areas under consideration.

35. The Secretary-General's study pointed to the paucity of evaluation of the impact of measures taken to address violence against women, including methodologies (A/61/122/Add.1 and Corr.1, para. 362). United Nations entities are

working to narrow this gap. Several are developing methodologies and guidelines for impact evaluation so as to improve the quality and effectiveness of strategies to end violence against women. For example, the World Bank, in collaboration with UNIFEM, developed an evaluation methodology and guide to measure the impact of initiatives addressing violence against women which is cost-effective and easily transferable to different contexts. The World Health Organization is developing guidelines for monitoring the impact of primary prevention strategies, while UNICRI has included an assessment component in its anti-trafficking projects.

36. United Nations entities are also taking steps to evaluate the impact of their own work on violence against women. UNIFEM will use the evaluation methodology developed to measure the impact of Trust Fund grants. UNHCR is conducting a global independent evaluation of its activities to prevent and respond to violence against women, which will be completed in 2008.

37. The costs of violence against women and the impacts of violence on other areas of work are increasingly highlighted. Several entities, including the World Bank and UNFPA, are devising concrete plans and strategies for responding to such impacts, and are contributing research or methodology on measuring the costs of violence against women. WHO plans to develop guidelines for estimating the economic impact of injuries resulting from interpersonal violence, in collaboration with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The World Bank held a staff workshop in 2004 on the causes and development impacts of violence against women, which recommended that the World Bank include violence against women in its core analytical and advisory work and gather further evidence of the costs of violence against women to encourage client Governments to take relevant action.

38. Research undertaken by United Nations entities in a variety of regions and countries and on different forms of violence against women has informed legal and policy development as well as advocacy at the global, regional and national levels. Work has also been done to highlight promising interventions in ending violence against women and to highlight violence against women as an impediment to development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

39. The findings generated by the entities of the United Nations system are regularly reflected in reports on violence against women mandated by intergovernmental bodies. Such reports and analysis contribute to the development of global policy responses to this challenge, from different perspectives. The Division prepared other reports of the Secretary-General on different aspects of violence against women for the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies, with input from relevant entities of the United Nations system. The Secretary-General's study on women, peace and security (S/2002/1154), coordinated by the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, also covered violence against women. Since completion of that study, the Office has continued to provide a coordinated system-wide response on the question in reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council. The reports of the Secretary-General prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime focused on the criminal justice aspects of violence against women, while those prepared by OHCHR supported the work of human rights bodies.

40. Paragraph 18 of resolution 61/143 requested the Statistical Commission to develop and propose, in consultation with the Commission on the Status of Women,

a set of possible indicators on violence against women in order to assist States in assessing the scope, prevalence and incidence of violence against women. ECE and the Division for the Advancement of Women, in collaboration with other regional commissions and the United Nations Statistical Division, will convene an expert group meeting in the fall of 2007 to assist those intergovernmental bodies in their work. The meeting will build on existing work on measurement and indicators on violence against women, in particular the past work of the ECE and the ECLAC framework for the development of indicators on violence against women.

B. Training and capacity-building measures

41. The United Nations system provided support on capacity-building measures and training programmes on preventing and addressing violence against women for a variety of stakeholders, including government and civil society actors, at the national and local levels. That support, which included the development and use of manuals, guidelines and handbooks, has resulted in stronger responses to violence against women, including through national action plans, strategies and policies, as well as partnerships for action to prevent violence against women.

42. The growing demand for reliable data on different forms and manifestations of violence against women requires that statisticians, including those from national statistics offices, and other data collectors have the capacity to respond to the needs of users, and United Nations entities have implemented a range of activities in this area. For example, ECLAC has built capacity in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to compile data and information on violence against women, including measurement of incidence and trends, and the ECE task force on violence against women aims to train national statistical officers and users on collection of data on violence against women.

43. Government officials, including law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges, parliamentarians, the staff of various ministries and health-care providers, have key responsibilities in preventing and responding to violence against women, and many United Nations entities continue to provide or support training and capacity-building for those actors. For example, capacity-building programmes for parliamentarians, local authorities, health-care providers, the judiciary, the police and uniformed personnel conducted by UNFPA and UNIFEM have improved responses to violence against women in a number of countries. The capacity of formal and informal systems of justice to respond to violence against women in the Sudan has been enhanced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) rule of law programme in that country, including through the training of judges and prosecutors. Regional judicial colloquiums on the application of international human rights law at the domestic level, convened by the Division for the Advancement of Women since 1999 in Austria, the Bahamas, Chile, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania, provided opportunities for judicial officers to discuss the role of the judiciary in addressing violence against women. UNHCR, in collaboration with UNFPA, WHO and UNAIDS, worked to build the capacity of health professionals on the clinical management of rape survivors. The International Labour Organization (ILO) conducted training on sexual harassment legislation and policies for constituents in China, Malaysia and Pakistan.

44. Capacity-building efforts supported by United Nations entities in the area of trafficking in women have resulted in greater capacity of Governments to plan, implement and coordinate relevant policies and programmes. For instance, ESCAP undertook capacity-building activities in support of effective planning on human trafficking, HIV/AIDS and the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Asia and the Pacific. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime trained officials and supported regional coordination to enhance the capacity of Governments in Western and Southern Africa, while UNICRI trained law enforcement officials and immigration and border police in Costa Rica and Italy. ILO initiated a technical cooperation project on trafficking covering Albania, Moldova and Ukraine. IOM provided technical assistance to countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America on the prevention of trafficking.

45. Non-governmental, civil society organizations and community leaders play a critical role in addressing violence against women. A number of United Nations entities provided training and capacity-building for those stakeholders. For example, seminars, workshops and targeted training held by the police advisers of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations aimed at raising community awareness of violence against women. UNIFEM efforts resulted in strengthened capacity of women's organizations to spearhead innovative responses to violence against women at the country level, while women's groups in conflict and post-conflict situations benefited from UNFPA training on violence against women.

46. Training tools for building the capacity of stakeholders to address violence against women and improve the effectiveness of responses to such violence, which can be used on a large scale, have been produced by United Nations entities. These training tools are complemented by a range of manuals and guidelines aimed at achieving better responses to violence against women. They are intended for use by particular groups of stakeholders or in regard to particular forms of violence against women. For example, UNDP training modules on violence against women target policymakers and law enforcement agencies, while the UN-Habitat training manual on domestic violence, developed in collaboration with a non-governmental organization partner, is intended primarily for use by community activists. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is preparing a guide for law enforcement officials on effective responses to violence against women.

47. Some of the training modules and guides prepared by UNFPA and WHO are intended for use by health-care providers and managers in responding to different forms of violence against women. The UNAIDS training manual for Governments aims to strengthen the HIV/AIDS responses of national uniformed services and includes a section on sexual violence and coercion.

48. Sexual harassment and other violence at work is covered in the ILO interactive programme entitled "SOLVE". ILO has also published a guide on addressing violence against women migrant workers. The UNHCR training kit aims at enhancing protection of refugee women, including from violence, while the guidelines for responding to violence against women in humanitarian emergencies of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee support different actors in their work with this group of women. OHCHR and UNICEF jointly developed a manual on caring for survivors of sexual violence in conflict-affected areas, and OHCHR plans to develop tools and guidelines on prosecution of sexual violence in conflict and women's access to justice.

49. The UNICRI multidisciplinary training manual is intended for use by all stakeholders involved in tackling trafficking, and WHO has published guidelines on interviewing victims of trafficking.

C. Support for legislative and policy development and implementation

50. The United Nations plays a significant role in the development of policy guidance on violence against women at the global and regional levels to facilitate the work of intergovernmental and expert bodies, promote dialogue and convene meetings of experts and policymakers. It supports States in the development and implementation of legislative initiatives, national policies, strategies and plans to end violence against women, strengthen prevention and provide services to women victims of violence, including by helping to build enhanced collaboration between government and civil society. UNAIDS, WHO and the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS have formed a technical working group that will make recommendations on improving attention to violence against women within national AIDS responses and strengthen linkages between AIDS programmes and programmes and services focusing on violence against women.

51. United Nations entities frequently support national law reform efforts aimed at the adoption or revision of laws on violence against women and the effective implementation and monitoring of such laws to enhance accountability and prevent impunity. To that end, United Nations entities have acted as resources, providing advice and technical assistance to stakeholders engaged in law reform efforts. For example, the work of gender equality advocates, including networks of women parliamentarians, supported by entities such as UNIFEM, UNICEF, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UNDP, resulted in the adoption and implementation of laws, policies and strategies to end violence against women and children and to ensure protection of victims. ILO provided technical advice on policy and legislation on sexual harassment in several countries, while other entities contributed to strengthening national monitoring and implementation of existing legislation.

52. United Nations entities have collaborated with national authorities and machineries for the advancement of women to enhance national policies on violence against women. For example, UNFPA supported the development of a comprehensive national strategy to address violence against women in Morocco. UNIFEM supported the Ministry of Women's Affairs of Afghanistan in drafting an interim national action plan for the women of that country, which included attention to, and an indicator on, violence against women. Department of Peacekeeping Operations gender units in peacekeeping missions collaborated with national machineries for the advancement of women in Burundi, Haiti, Kosovo and Timor-Leste with regard to responses to violence against women. WHO has worked with national partners to develop policies on violence against women as a follow-up to the *World Report on Violence and Health*.[11] Its efforts have resulted in the generation of national reports on violence and health and the appointment of focal points on violence against women in the ministries of health in almost 100 countries.

[11] Etienne G. Krug, and others, editors, *World Report on Violence and Health* (Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002). Available from http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/index.html.

53. Cooperation between civil society organizations and government actors in developing and implementing strategies that address violence against women is considered good practice. United Nations entities have facilitated the development and strengthening of such strategic partnerships in many countries. For example, gender units and advisers in peacekeeping missions have worked to increase collaboration between the police, the judicial system and national victim-support organizations in Sierra Leone. They have also advocated for the inclusion of women's non-governmental organizations in efforts to combat trafficking in Kosovo. WHO targeted multidisciplinary groups, including journalists, civil servants, health-care providers and policymakers, in its sensitization activities on various forms of violence against women.

54. Some United Nations entities provided financial support for policy development while others supported the creation of institutions. For example, the World Bank provided an Institutional Development Fund grant in the amount of $300,000 to support Uruguay in its efforts to implement international, regional and domestic laws pertaining to violence against women, improve access to justice for victims and implement the first national plan on domestic violence. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) collaborated with the Ministry of Women's Affairs of the Occupied Palestinian Territories to establish the Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Centre, which serves as a resource centre and observatory and focuses on women's rights legislation and violence against women as two of its key areas of attention.

55. The Secretary-General's study points to the need for an enhanced focus on the prevention of violence against women. United Nations entities are responding to that need by supporting national and local efforts to implement a range of initiatives, including awareness-raising and advocacy efforts, working with men and boys, and implementing projects aimed at enhancing women's safety.

56. Many United Nations entities continue to engage in, and/or support awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns and outreach activities to raise knowledge of violence against women. For example, many entities support and lead advocacy efforts during the annual 16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women campaign, together with Governments and non-governmental organizations. Similar efforts are regularly undertaken on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Such advocacy takes the form of publications, posters, public service announcements, films, videos, radio, theatre, television programmes and the dissemination of information through websites. UNIFEM, for example, has developed media and communications strategies for effective advocacy on violence against women.

57. The engagement of men and boys in efforts to prevent violence against women has become an area of focus of a growing number of entities of the United Nations system. Activities include the following: conducting workshops, producing films, preparing papers and reports on men's roles in ending violence against women, developing manuals and collaborating with existing men's initiatives on violence against women. ESCAP, for example, conducted a subregional training workshop on the elimination of violence against women in partnership with men in New Delhi; and facilitated the production and screening of a film on young men speaking about violence against women and gender equality, called *Young Men Speak Out*. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

(INSTRAW) produced a series of papers on men's roles and responsibilities in ending violence against women and launched a collaborative research programme and online discussion on violence against women focusing on masculinities and male roles. UNICEF developed a manual for football coaches, designed to encourage coaches to talk to boys about violence against women and promote a culture of non-violence. UNHCR makes efforts to involve more male staff and refugees in understanding, preventing and addressing violence against women. The UNDP Asia Pacific Bureau is launching a regional programme on working with men and boys to prevent gender-based violence that will be implemented jointly with UNFPA and UNIFEM in the 2008-2011 programme cycle and will produce a regional public awareness campaign and provide country-level capacity-building and support.

58. Other prevention strategies seek to enhance women's safety in public places. For example, audits aimed at making the urban environment safer have been undertaken by UN-Habitat in Africa, Latin America and Asia. In an effort to ensure women's safety and prevent sexual harassment, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) supported the Government of Bangladesh in setting up "women's sections" in major markets. Women collecting firewood in humanitarian settings are frequently exposed to sexual violence, and several entities are implementing measures to reduce the time women spend outside camps collecting firewood, for example by implementing training programmes on fuel-efficient stove-making. UNHCR, in coordination with civil society partners, plans to launch a safe-school initiative that seeks to ensure that violence against women is prevented in schools.

59. Services and support for women victims of violence are an essential element of a comprehensive approach to violence against women, and several entities have developed and/or implemented projects in that area. For example, UNHCR has established drop-in centres to facilitate, for survivors of violence against women, access to health and psychosocial services, shelters and justice. UNFPA, in collaboration with WHO, has developed a minimum package of services for women affected by sexual violence in conflict and crisis situations. WHO is planning to establish local networks for care of victims of violence against women as entry points for HIV/AIDS prevention treatment in Belize, El Salvador and Honduras.

60. At the same time, United Nations entities continued to support services provided to victims of violence by governmental and civil society organizations, including free legal services, counselling, mediation and rehabilitation services. For example, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime provided assistance to One-Stop Centres in South Africa, which bring under one roof all services for victims and survivors of violence against women in a coordinated and mutually reinforcing manner. IOM facilitated access to counselling and HIV testing for rape victims and has funded a 24-hour hotline for victims of trafficking in South Africa.

D. Internal policies, training and guidelines on violence against women of the United Nations system

61. Internal policies, guidelines and training programmes on violence against women have been put in place in United Nations entities. For example, in 2005 UNDP launched an online mandatory course for its staff on workplace harassment,

sexual exploitation and abuse of authority, and such a course is also mandatory for staff of the United Nations Secretariat. The UNHCR code of conduct, drawn up in 2004, incorporated the Secretary-General's bulletin on sexual exploitation and abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13), and focal points are in place in all UNHCR offices to carry out the recommendations of the bulletin. UNHCR aims to have in place standard operating procedures for prevention of violence against women and response by the end of 2007.

62. Entities of the United Nations system, including UNHCR and UNICEF, provide training on violence against women for staff to enable the organizations to meet standards in prevention and response. Similarly, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has supported or implemented training activities for mission personnel on violence against women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste. OHCHR, UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) are contributing to initiatives intended to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel.

V. Conclusions

63. **Entities of the United Nations system have stepped up their efforts at addressing violence against women in accordance with their mandates and have developed, supported and/or implemented a range of initiatives aimed at preventing and eliminating such violence. Their efforts gained momentum during the preparatory process for the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women. The entities reviewed their work, identified gaps and challenges and initiated steps for addressing them.**

64. **In response to resolution 61/143 of the General Assembly, entities of the United Nations system are strengthening cooperation and collaboration, through new and existing mechanisms. The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, chaired by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, takes a lead role in those efforts. Through its Task Force, which became operational in early 2007, the Network is responding directly to the priorities highlighted in the resolution. Several thematic initiatives involving relevant United Nations entities further contribute to enhanced coordination and collaboration, avoid duplication of efforts and increase impact.**

65. **The resolution urges greater coordination and intensification of United Nations support for national efforts, which will be achieved, inter alia, through the joint programming on violence against women being developed by the Task Force and by United Nations Action on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict.**

66. **The resolution stresses that adequate resources should be assigned within the United Nations system for work on violence against women, and calls upon the Network to consider ways and means to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women. The Task Force will undertake a resource flow analysis to assess the available resources and elaborate recommendations for their most effective and efficient use. Efforts are under way to increase the resources available for such work. The Trust Fund has initiated a process of evaluating the impact of its projects. The Network will also consider ways and means to enhance the**

effectiveness of the Trust Fund as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls.

67. The Secretary-General is committed to a stronger and more visible role for the United Nations in efforts to eliminate violence against women and will spearhead United Nations initiatives in that regard. The Secretary-General's global campaign on violence against women, to be launched towards the end of 2007, will focus attention on three main areas: (a) global advocacy; (b) United Nations leadership; and (c) strengthened efforts and partnerships at the national and regional levels.

Annex

Contributors to the inventory of United Nations system activities on violence against women

Department of Peacekeeping Operations

Department of Political Affairs

Department of Public Information

Division for the Advancement of Women

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Inter-Agency Network for Women and Gender Equality

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

United Nations Statistics Division

United Nations University (UNU)

World Bank

World Food Programme (WFP)

World Health Organization (WHO)